



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
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by

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SB 2843, SD 2 – RELATING TO ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 2843, SD2, which would increase the responsible recycling and disposal of electronic waste (ewaste) and contains language that addresses our concerns with the original language.

We were unfortunately unaware of the companion measure, HB 2509, during its journey through the House. So we would like to highlight the two critical improvements in SB 2843, SD2 without which we would have to oppose this measure.

First, unlike the original measure, SB 2843, SD2 now includes the University of Hawai'i, Department of Education, other schools, and all levels of government as "covered entities." Second, this measure now includes computers and printers as "included electronic devices." Our experience is that computers and printers are a substantial component of our ewaste problems. Without these provisions, the bill would do substantial damage to the University, DOE and governmental ewaste disposal efforts.

Our concern over the original language in these bills is the direct result of our experience coordinating one of the largest ewaste disposal efforts in the State. In collaboration with Apple Computer, in October 2006 the University of Hawai'i coordinated a one-week statewide educational ewaste disposal program. At no direct cost to the University, DOE or private schools, we collected and responsibly disposed of 51 containers of unused electronic equipment from schools and colleges on four islands. Apple paid for the containers and all associated handling. Also at Apple's sole expense, the 1.2 million pounds of e-waste we collected were removed from Hawai'i for responsible recycling and disposal. This equipment included computers, monitors, printers and televisions.

We recently began discussions with Apple to plan another ewaste disposal effort for 2008. Apple's preliminary intention was to extend this program from education only, as in 2006, to include governmental entities as well. However, with the introduction of SB

SB 2843 and HB 2509 as originally drafted, Apple asked to put our planning on hold. Apple's legitimate reasoning was that if the State Legislature decides to mandate disposal programs only for ewaste from consumers and small businesses, and explicitly excludes printers, then Apple would have to redirect its resources into ewaste disposal programs that directly address the new statutory requirements.

We therefore support SB 2843, SD2 and particularly these two changes that will support the efforts of Hawai'i's education and governmental sectors to responsibly and comprehensively address our ewaste concerns as well as those of consumers and small businesses.